



MEDIA ADVISORY

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For more information, contact:

Cyndy Cerbin

Director of Communications

706/653-9234

ccerbin@nationalinfantryfoundation.org

8th Annual Gala Celebrates Movies Made at Fort Benning

From The Green Berets to We Were Soldiers, Hollywood salutes our Soldiers

Columbus, Georgia – July 19, 2017: Whether drama or comedy, truth or fiction, moviemakers have been drawn to Fort Benning over the years to tell their military stories. Between 1941 and now, marquees carried titles like *The Green Berets*, *Tank*, *Jumping Jacks* and *We Were Soldiers*, with big-name stars like John Wayne, Mel Gibson, Dean Martin, and James Garner.

This year the National Infantry Museum will celebrate the post's silver screen legacy at the eighth annual Salute to Soldiers Gala, hosted by the Foundation's 1775 Society. The annual black tie fundraising event will be Saturday, August 19, 2017, beginning at 6 p.m. at the museum. Tickets are \$150 per person, and the event is open to the public. Members of the 1775 Society receive at least two free tickets to the gala with their membership.

The museum will be decorated with movie paraphernalia and décor, including posters, red carpets, spotlights and Oscar statuettes. The family of the late LTG Hal Moore will lend souvenirs from the making of *We Were Soldiers*, in which Mel Gibson portrayed Moore as a lieutenant colonel commanding a battalion of the 7th Cavalry Regiment during one of the deadliest battles of the Vietnam War.

One of the gala's special guests will be Hollywood newcomer Sgt. Stubby. Sgt. Stubby was the brave, tenacious and irresistible mutt who became the United States Army's most decorated dog during World War I. He was the first canine in American history to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant in recognition of keen instincts and fierce loyalty. His true story is being told in a feature-length animated film in production in Columbus, Canada and France. It will be distributed by Columbus-based Fun Academy Studios. One of four premieres will be held at the National Infantry Museum's Giant Screen Theater next spring.

The gala's silent auction will feature dozens of unique items, including trips – both domestic and international – local art, handmade jewelry, and memorable experiences.

It's Your Day Catering Chef Jeff Brammer will prepare an elegant gourmet meal, and there'll be hours of dancing after dinner.

Money raised from ticket sales and the silent auction will go toward the creation and maintenance of the new Global War on Terrorism Memorial at the museum, which is under construction now along Heritage Walk. It is due to be completed this fall.

For tickets or more information about the gala, or to join the 1775 Society, call Jane Bayer at 706-685-2604. Ticket sales will close no later than August 14.

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***The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center**, a 155-acre tract linking Columbus, Georgia, and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, is the first world-class site to pay tribute to the U.S. Army Infantryman and those who fight alongside him. Voted the **#1 Free Museum in America** in the 2016 USA Today Readers' Choice Awards, the museum showcases the contributions of the Infantry Soldier in every war fought by the U.S. by offering immersive participation and engaging visitors in the unique experiences of the Infantry Soldier. The complex also includes a parade field, memorial walk of honor, authentic World War II Company Street, Vietnam Memorial Plaza, combat simulators, a full-service restaurant and a Giant Screen Theater. For more information, visit www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org.*